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2 September 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 2 September 1966

25X1 [] of ORR gave a background briefing on Communist Bloc grain production and purchases in Western markets.

25X1 DD/I noted that a special article had been prepared as background for []

Godfrey noted that there is a report that Chinese Communist AAA crews are operating in the Dien Bien Phu area, which would indicate that they are intended to support operations against Laos rather than to defend against the current U. S. bombing program in North Vietnam. The Director asked about the increase in reports that additional Soviet SAM's and crews are being provided. Godfrey noted that these reports are as yet unconfirmed but that Soviet involvement and concern over the SAM defenses are increasing.

Godfrey gave the Director the critique he requested yesterday on the INR memorandum concerning signs of dissidence in Soviet leadership. Godfrey observed that Brezhnev's stature in relation to Kosygin's has diminished slightly in the recent past.

Abbot Smith noted that Ambassador Porter of Vietnam will be at Headquarters this morning to talk to the Board of National Estimates. Smith also noted that the paper on factors influencing the use of Chinese Communist forces in Southeast Asia is still being reviewed by the BNE.

Abbot Smith reported that Sherman Kent will return to duty on 6 September.

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Warner noted that Representative Mahon has tentatively arranged to meet with the Director on Wednesday for a general briefing.

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DD/S&T reported that Al Flax of NRO has been briefed on the Agency's funding requirements [redacted] and has concurred. Flax will contact the Director on this matter next week.

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DD/S&T reported that a strike probably will occur shortly at the CORONA facility on the West Coast. Plans have been made, as a result, to operate out of Vandenberg for the next three launches.

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DD/P noted that there is a report that twenty Buddhist monks intend to immolate themselves during the upcoming elections in South Vietnam.

The Director initiated a discussion on the use of certain qualifying language in the CIB. He indicated that he would discuss the matter with the DD/I in more detail at a later date.

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The Director reported that the Secretary of Defense has concurred in the Agency's plan to propose [redacted] that OXCART be tested [redacted]

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The Director noted that he will meet with Secretary Rusk tomorrow.

The Director informed the group that key senior personnel would be expected to inform the Operations Center of their whereabouts during the Labor Day weekend.

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[redacted]
L. K. White

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